

# I.W.W. (WORLD LABOR) NEWS

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS  
OF THE WORLD

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

VOLUME 83, NUMBER 6, WN 1477

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, JUNE 1986

25 CENTS



## BUILDING WORLD LABOR SOLIDARITY

Some 40 delegates and observers from Canada, England, France, Japan, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, and the US met in Chicago May 1st through 4th to discuss the common problems facing workers around the world and to consider ways to develop and strengthen world labor solidarity. This Haymarket International Labor Conference also commemorated the 100th anniversary of the 1886 general strike for the eight-hour day and the Haymarket tragedy, the 50th anniversary of the Spanish revolution, and the 30th anniversary of the Hungarian workers' uprising.

The Conference opened up with a spirited May Day march, with Wobblies and other delegates joining a 600-person-strong parade through Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. IWW members carried the banners of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul and Chicago Branches, as well as the Conference banner calling for world labor solidarity. Between the Wobbly and anarchist contingents the march was more militant than its organizers had anticipated, and they took off mid-way through. Chants in English, French, Japanese, Polish, Spanish, and Swedish exemplified the spirit of Haymarket and May Day, including such favorites as "Huelga General, Revolucion Total" and "Less Work, More Pay, Fight for the Four-Hour Day".

The first conference session followed, with a presentation by Marek Garztecki of the London Solidarnosc Information Bureau, speaking on labor in Poland and Eastern Europe. Garztecki described the background and development of Solidarnosc, which reached a member-

ship of 10 million workers (out of a workforce of 14 million) before being outlawed on December 13th, 1981. Solidarnosc now has existed four times as long underground as it did during its brief legal existence, Garztecki noted, with a massive underground membership and 600 different papers. Currently Solidarnosc is trying to build up allies in other Soviet Bloc countries. There are dissenting groups in all of these countries, but outside of Poland they tend to be marginal and often not rooted in the working class. In his presentation Garztecki stressed the need for a third way—neither capitalist nor Soviet style—based on workers' self-management.

### COMMON PROBLEMS

On May 2nd the delegates from the various invited organizations introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their organizations. Among those represented were the Swedish Workers Centralorganization (SAC), the Solidarnosc Information Bureau, IBM Workers United (USA), syndicalists from the French Anarchist Federation, the Workers Solidarity Movement of Japan (IWA), the Workers Solidarity Alliance (the US section of the IWA), and of course the IWW. Observers from the Direct Action Movement (the British section of the IWA) and US and Canadian rank-and-file workers also attended, as did a representative of the South African Allied Workers Union who originally was to participate fully in the Conference, but—after consultations with SAAWU's head office in Johannesburg—withdrawed to observer status because of the other participants' opposition to the Soviet Bloc and its "communist parties" and his objections to some of Garztecki's remarks.

The Spanish dockworkers' union, Coordinadora, had intended to participate, but was unable to do so because of the ongoing dockworkers' struggles in that country (see report this issue). Greetings and solidarity messages were received from the Service, Office, and Retail Workers Union of Canada, the CNT of France, the CNT-AIT of Spain, and the Northern Sub-secretariat of the International Workers Association (AIT/IWA)—as well as from other groups in Canada, Chile, Korea, Sweden, and Venezuela—expressing regrets that these organizations were unable to participate.

### HIGH-TECH CHALLENGE FOR LABOR

Fellow Workers Jeff Stein and Sam Dolgoff of the IWW and Lee Conrad of IBM Workers United opened the first workshop. Dolgoff recalled that many years ago he wrote a pamphlet extolling the promise of high tech, but that he has lived on to see its uglier side: The same technologies that make possible improved communications, shorter hours, and the like can be—and are—also used to strengthen government surveillance, throw workers out of their jobs, and enable the employing class to pit us against each other. FW Stein spoke of the enormous gap between high tech's promise and reality, focusing on how computerization and automation have been used to remove decision-making from the shop floor and to cut payrolls, as well as to facilitate union-busting and relocation of plants. He noted that these new systems are not invulnerable to direct action, suggesting that with proper organization and effective industrial action, data workers might play a key role in preventing bosses from breaking strikes.

Lee Conrad spoke about the efforts of IBM Workers United to try to organize that company—a citadel of the high-tech industry. He noted that in 1985 IBM realized earnings of \$6 billion, employing 400,000 workers in 24 countries (240,000 in the US) only a small portion of whom are organized. IBM Workers United has three major goals: a shorter workweek, a humanized work process, and a more socially-useful product line. Extensive discussion followed on the dangers of centralization of information and control posed by the new technologies, and the extent to which they actually are susceptible to workers' control and re-direction.

The next session focused on repression of the labor movement, with FW Mike Hargis of the IWW opening by noting that while governments and companies routinely act to prevent workers from defending their rights, the kinds of overt repression most people think of (such as shootings and mass imprisonment) are less important than the economic and legal pressures used to control and constrain militancy. Discussion followed on the economic pressure used by employers in Sweden to force workers to leave the SAC, the successful international efforts to protect Guatemalan Coca-Cola workers, a

(continued on Page 5)

TO:  
ISSN: 0019-8270  
3435 N. Sheffield Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60657, USA  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
Paid at  
Second Class Postage  
INDUSTRIAL WORKER



## sound of a distant drum

The strike of print workers, journalists, and fellow employees of Express Newspapers sacked for refusing to move riverside to Fortress Wapping is in danger of entering the Guinness Book of Records as the strike that never was, despite the loyalty of thousands of uncommitted men and women demonstrating outside Fortress Wapping's high walls and razor-sharp barbed wire in defense of those on strike, trade-union principles, and various far-left ideologies.

The employers seek to move the news-media production into high technology—slashing the human workforce for the sake of higher profits—and to break the power of a dominant trade-union group. And despite all the breast-beating by trade-union bosses, prancing police horses, punch-ups in pubs, and leafleting by the minority militant left, the employers had won before the protest strike began. The newspapers roll out almost undisturbed, the strike as news has long since died, and behind the curtains the trade-union bosses and company brass are signing deals and shaking hands across the table.

In Glasgow the Left's happy-time villain of the hour and member of Britain's Labour Party has decided that he has won his battle as a high-tech newspaper tycoon, and has taken down the barbed wire on his personal fortress, the Anderson Quay newspaper plant, convinced that his Glasgow newspaper strike is now kaput worker-wise and that the non-printer-produced colored national newspapers are now an accepted fact of life. But I do not play the cynic, for I am bitter as ever when the rank and file are used as counters in an inner-sanctum version of closed-circuit politics.

After weeks of lordly breast-beating by Brenda Dean, general secretary of the newspaper workers' union Sogat, and her high command, they announced with nary a twitch to the pouting lips that thrilled television news audiences that a deal had been struck between Express Newspapers employers and the union top brass to the effect that a major Fleet Street newspaper will join the ranks of the lemmings driven to Fortress Wapping, and out of 6800 workers, 2500 (including 160 journalists) will be sacked. The 30-hour week will become a minimum 35-hour week. The six-week annual holiday will be reduced to a five-week holiday, and the four-day week will become a five-day week. It is said—and who am I to doubt it—that there is \$50,000,000 lying around to pay off the workers who are being kicked out of the Street of Adventure, and many a man and woman who never threw a brick at a policeman at Fortress Wapping or lifted the oil-stained shoe at a demonstration in support of the coal miners' long and heroic struggle will retire to enjoy all the creature comforts of a free economy, Ma Thatcher, and the privilege of belonging to an elite closed-shop craft union.

The battle is outside the walls of Fortress Wapping, and it is being fought by men and women who could never obtain a "print-union" card in their working lifetime, and it must never be forgotten that the battle is in defense of trade-union principles and practice and one's companions on both left and right. If there is any organization claiming to be a union which denies any man or woman—for reasons of race, religion, sex, economics, or just plain "Who sent you?"—the right to a union card or the right to work, then let it make its own squalid deals, such as Britain's lawyers are now making with the Lord Chancellor in pursuit of more money for arguing cases in court. Their battle is not ours, for the rank and file are now literally standing in the docks. In small mining communities in Britain there are miners who were charged before the courts for trivial offenses during the long coal strike. The courts found them not guilty and discharged them, and the national industrial tribunals found them guiltless and said they should be allowed to return to work; yet still the State coal managements refuse to rehire them. And what was their crime? That they came out on strike or stood on a legal picket line. And where are the banners for the miners, comrade? Lying in the backrooms of too many political and trade-union offices.

But this was where the battle was fought for trade-union principles, and men and women went to prison and even some to their deaths in that year-long struggle. Therefore I say unto you... I cry waxing into biblical tomes... of the millions of dollars claimed to have been paid out by a grateful employer to the prospective ex newspaper workers, let those ink-stained, tear-stained lads and lasses give a million or so dollars of their "golden handshakes" to the blacklisted coal miners to justify the sorry saraband outside the opening gates of Fortress Wapping.

Arthur Moyse, London

**US STUDENTS FIGHT APARTHEID:** On April 3rd, protests at the University of California's Berkeley campus against the school's 2.4-billion investment in firms that do business with South Africa led to the arrest of 87 students and 11 reported injuries. About 150 students had been arrested in the week-long attempt to position symbolic plywood shanties in front of an administration building. On April 14th, Yale University police arrested 78 students for first-degree criminal trespass as they passively resisted police efforts to dismantle a shantytown protesting the \$350 million invested by Yale in companies that do business in South Africa.

### EDITORIAL:

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

81 years ago some workers met in Chicago in hopes of modernizing the labor movement. They decided we needed industrial unionism with internal democracy and classwide solidarity. Even way back then, the flow of material and jobs and capital and labor knew no boundaries, so they took the name Industrial Workers of the World.

Ten years later workers were putting on different uniforms and setting out to kill each other's kids. In those days before airplanes, there could have been a general strike instead of a general war. The IWW here, and folks like it in Europe, had urged that action. Had that happened, just think: no war, no Hitler, no Mussolini, no Stalin, no Versailles; some path other than the one mankind has known, and surely shaped much better to fit the hopes of working people.

Unfortunately, we can't go back to 1914 and do things differently. But surely today those of us who have some understanding of history are morally obliged to speak out and organize against the military and corporate powers that seem internally programmed to destroy the human species.

If all workers, regardless of their "isms", were to exchange data about wages and strikes and boycotts and where the struck work went, they would surely be better able to resist the current dragging them down to war and destruction. And if they can do that, why not go on to

exchanging plans for the enjoyment of this planet?

Let's make this planet a good place to live. The IWW needs your help in this unfinished business.

Fred Thompson



### reader's soapbox

#### JOSEPH DIETZGEN REMEMBERED

This year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Haymarket events. There is, however, one person who should not go unremembered, and that is Joseph Dietzgen. Dietzgen was a member of the Socialist Labor Party who rallied to the anarchists' cause against the advice of his party leaders. He assumed the editorship of the *Chicago Arbeiterzeitung* when everyone else was afraid to do so. As the hassle from the SLP increased, Dietzgen declared that he too was an anarchist. When he died a few years later, he chose to be buried next to his comrades, the Haymarket martyrs.

Dietzgen tried to overcome the dogmatic disputes between the anarchists and the socialists, hoping to produce one unified movement for the liberation of wage slaves. As such he was a precursor of organizations like the IWW. These political views were the logical outcome of his philosophical writings, which are still an excellent antidote to sectarianism. The best known of these is *Nature of Human Brain Work*, a fine introduction to his dialectical libertarianism. This book can be purchased for \$7 from Charles H. Kerr or the Vancouver Branch IWW.

Yours for the OBU

Larry Gambone

**Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World**

**THE WORKING CLASS AND THE EMPLOYING CLASS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! THERE CAN BE NO PEACE SO LONG AS HUNGER AND WANT ARE FOUND AMONG MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE FEW, WHO MAKE UP THE EMPLOYING CLASS, HAVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.**

**BETWEEN THESE TWO CLASSES A STRUGGLE MUST GO ON UNTIL THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZE AS A CLASS, TAKE POSSESSION OF THE EARTH AND THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION, AND ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM.**

**WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING DEFEAT ONE ANOTHER IN WAGE WARS. MOREOVER, THE TRADE UNIONS AID THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MISLEAD THE WORKERS INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE WORKING CLASS HAVE INTERESTS IN COMMON WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS.**

**THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE CHANGED AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHOLD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF, THUS MAKING AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.**

**INSTEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOTTO, "A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR FAIR DAY'S WORK," WE MUST INSCRIBE ON OUR BANNER THE REVOLUTIONARY WATCHWORD, "ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM."**

**IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS TO DO AWAY WITH CAPITALISM. THE ARMY OF PRODUCTION MUST BE ORGANIZED, NOT ONLY FOR THE EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.**

### AROUND OUR UNION

**ANACORTES, WASHINGTON:** A Fellow Worker hosted a showing of the film *The Wobblies* April 2nd, leafleting his workplace—the Bechtel Corporation Module Fabrication plant—during the day, and announcing the film showing at a nearby watering hole right after work.

About 50 people showed up—primarily building and construction trade-union members. Some 30 copies of the *Industrial Worker* were taken, and information about the IWW was well received. The program moved retired longtime iron worker Carl Webb to an impromptu speech challenging the group to exercise solidarity for gains in on-the-job safety and worker dignity.

**CHICAGO:** Local Wobs joined in a demonstration against the ongoing US military intervention in Central America April 19th, and traveled to Austin, Minnesota and Ottumwa, Iowa to show solidarity with striking and locked-out Hormel workers in April. A spirited Wobbly contingent—composed largely of delegates and other participants in the Haymarket International Labor Conference—joined the traditional Chicago May Day March, distributing hundreds of *IWWs* to marchers and passersby.

**VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA:** The Vancouver GMB hosted its second annual May Day dinner May 1st, featuring labor speakers and song. On April 27th local Wobs joined in a walk and rally for peace. The Vancouver Branch has also approved a new leaflet on property rights which asks "Ever had your local banker drop by and spend a day swinging a hammer with you building your house? Me neither, but he has a better chance of owning it eventually than you or I...." The leaflet, which hits the streets in May, points out that the marketplace is "efficient at making fortunes for the banks and developers, maybe, but efficient at providing affordable shelter? Not likely."

**EASTERN WASHINGTON AND MONTANA:** FWs Mark Ross and Utah Phillips did a four-concert swing through Spokane, Hamilton, Missoula, and Kalispell, singing Wobbly songs and spreading the IWW message to large and enthusiastic crowds. IWW literature was distributed to concertgoers in Missoula by members of the Clark Fork Valley IWW Group.

### FAREWELL, FELLOW WORKER

Fellow Worker Philip Mellman died on March 26th at the age of 92. He had been in a nursing home since

January 20th, but had retained his mind to the last. He was born in Russia in 1893. He joined the IWW in 1922 and was imprisoned in San Quentin the same year under the infamous criminal-syndicalism law, being forced to serve three years and eleven months. During the Great Depression of the '30s he helped form the Unemployed Co-operative of Greater Los Angeles. He fought the "job release" law in 1942, which meant taking on the Federal Government. He chaired the IWW Convention of 1952 when Cleveland broke away, and remained active after retiring as a merchant seaman in 1953. He is survived by a daughter and many, many friends and fellow workers, who will carry on his spirit.

Franklin Devore

\*EDUCATION \*ORGANIZATION \*EMANCIPATION



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

### Industrial Worker

Editorial Collective:

Richard Christopher, Carlos Cortez,  
Mike Hargis, Penny Pixler, Fred Thompson  
General Secretary-Treasurer: Mark Kaufmann

The *Industrial Worker* (ISSN 0019-8870) is the official organ of the Industrial Workers of the World, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657, phone (312) 549-5045. Second-class postage paid at Chicago. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Industrial Worker*, 3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657. Unless designated as official policy, articles in the *Industrial Worker* do not necessarily represent the official position of the Industrial Workers of the World. No paid or commercial advertising accepted. The *Industrial Worker* is published monthly and is mailed without a wrapper to reduce expenses, but a wrapper can be requested. The deadline for all copy is the 18th of each month.



# NORTH AMERICAN LABOR NEWS

## THROUGH DIFFERENT LENSES

Despite continual propaganda that employees and management are really "on the same team", a recent survey by two Canadian business researchers found that workers don't see things that way.

In fact, the employees' views might be paraphrased by the opening of the IWW Preamble: "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common."

Reporting in December on findings by researchers David Peach and Dale Oliver, the *Toronto Globe and Mail* said the two discovered that "beyond the petty squabbles and occasional misunderstandings, there exist real—almost philosophical—differences between employers and employees about everything from working conditions to management style."

Peach and Oliver concluded from their study—based on interviews with owners, managers, and workers at about 200 small retail outlets—that managers are "seriously out of touch with reality", the *Globe* said. The researchers found, for example, that workers usually had a more accurate perception of prevailing wage scales than management did.

"Wage rates for a number of categories in the stores surveyed were generally below community standards," said Peach and Oliver. "Also, wages on average had not kept pace with increases in the cost of living. One wonders here whether management was misinformed or engaging in the psychological defense of denial."

Some 41% of employees surveyed said they or their fellow workers are dissatisfied with the way management conducts business. But only 5% of managers said they feel their employees are unhappy with the way the companies are run. However, unions apparently are not seen as an alternative by the workers surveyed. Only 19% said they would be interested in unionization.

*Solidarity Bulletin*

## STUNG RIGHT

When Toliver Incorporated spread the word that he would be hiring 100 workers (at \$20 to \$34 an hour) to do asbestos removal, he was quickly flooded with applicants, though he had no contracts. Toliver qualified as a minority contractor, was sure he would get work, and promised to hire natives, blacks, and any other minority group in Alaska, and get them all free training to do the dangerous work.

The free-training program never developed, and eventually applicants eager to get the work found their own funding for the 500- to 650-dollar training through state loans or individual contacts. Pearl Nestor, a newly-joined Wobbly, and her brother managed to scrape together the money for the class given in Anchorage by the Pittsburgh Testing Lab. She had quit her job in a print shop, and soon after completing the training learned there was no prospect of work. Exasperated and disillusioned, but more knowledgeable about the boss's bullshit, she wrote Toliver: "I am so much wiser for having known you. I will never forget you when I look across some stretch of road and remember all the things I have lost in two months that took me years to gain."



**WHAT WE DON'T KNOW:** The US Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has forbidden the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to conduct a study of the effects of VDT (video display terminal) radiation. VDT radiation, as the regular readers of this column will probably remember, is suspected of causing a number of problems. Chief among these are an increased chance of miscarriage for pregnant women working with VDTs, and an increased incidence of birth defects among children born to women using VDTs.

The OMB claims that the study is "unjustified", but it looks more like someone's got something to hide. The union-sponsored study being conducted by Dr. Irving Selikoff of the Montefiore Medical Center is continuing, though it will be some years before definite results are available. In the meantime, the IWW's position is, as always, better safe than sorry. Grounded transparent radiation screens (which also help eliminate glare) and positioning VDTs against a wall with nobody on the other side (most VDT radiation is given off through the back of the terminal) can cut the risks considerably. So can limiting time worked at a VDT to no more than four hours a day, as is now widely recommended. (This also helps reduce stress and eliminate eyestrain.)

**SOLVENT-LINKED BRAIN DRAIN:** None of the hydrocarbon solvents are really safe, but some are less hazardous than others. Until recently, methylene chloride (also known as aerotherne MM, dichloromethane, fre-

## NEW ENGLAND RAIL STRIKE WIDENS

On April 25th, Boston's commuter rail service was halted when unionized machinists and electricians joined striking railroad maintenance workers on the picket lines.

The United Transportation Union joined the maintenance workers' eight-week strike in a show of solidarity after Guilford Transportation Industries, the company that owns the Maine Central and Boston & Maine Railroads, sent letters to the striking maintenance workers ordering them to return to work or face permanent re-employment.

The strike began March 3rd when 800 workers on the Maine Central Railroad struck Guilford after the company demanded job cuts and proposed a 20% pay cut for remaining maintenance workers and concessions on health care and benefits. The workers, represented by the Brotherhood (sic) of Maintenance of Way Employees, asked for special severance pay for the laid-off workers. The strike spread to Guilford's two other railroads, the Boston & Maine and the Delaware & Hudson, two weeks later.

In April the maintenance workers' union announced that it was picketing six carriers aiding the struck railroads, stating that the union was "going to play to win". Fifty railroads promptly filed for an injunction in the Washington DC district court, but were unsuccessful. The individual railroads then went judge-shopping, eventually securing injunctions banning the picketing with little or no notice to the union. Picket lines had gone up at a number of railroads before the injunctions were granted. The union is fighting the injunctions in court and is calling on the Government to settle the strike. But surely it would make a lot more sense to try to strengthen the solidarity that has been forthcoming from other railroad workers.



**BOYCOTT MORTON THIOKOL:** Morton Thiokol is the world's largest salt company. It also makes solid rocket boosters for the Midgetman, Minuteman, MX, Poseidon, and Trident nuclear missiles. It is also a prime contractor for conventional missiles, anti-satellite weapons, Star Wars, and the military space shuttle. "We are part of the defense establishment and proud of it," said Charles Locke, chairperson and chief executive officer at Morton's annual meeting last November. The Campaign for a Nuclear-Free America is urging people to join the boycott against Morton as part of its campaign against the top 50 nuclear-weapons contractors, and to phone Morton Customer Service (1-800-828-6702 or 312-807-2000) and tell them why.

on 30, losungsmittle LWH, losungsmittle 8951, methane dichloride, solasthin, stauffer MCT, and methylene bichloride) was thought to be one of the safer ones. But a recent study by the US National Toxicology Program showed that even at levels previously claimed as "safe", methylene chloride did serious brain damage to workers exposed to it: The study examined 49 workers exposed to methylene chloride in bonding and finishing operations. Of the 27 workers involved in bonding operations, 17 showed symptoms of organic brain syndrome (permanent brain damage, usually including loss of intelligence, memory, and other mental facilities) and 10 displayed symptoms of acute central-nervous-system dysfunction (a sometimes reversible condition, otherwise similar to organic brain syndrome).

None of the 27 were unaffected. The bonding workers were working with open containers of methylene chloride, and often dipped their hands into the solvent—which, like most hydrocarbon solvents, can pass through the unbroken skin into the bloodstream. The 22 finishing workers, who were exposed to much lower levels of methylene chloride, got off more lightly: 10 had organic brain syndrome, 2 had acute central-nervous-system dysfunction, and 10 were unaffected. The US Occupational Safety and Health Administration's legal limit for exposure to methylene chloride is 500 parts per million. The American Congress of Government Industrial Hygienists has recommended a lower level, 100 ppm. The bonding workers, all of whom had some brain damage, were exposed to an average of 68 ppm.

Clearly, even low-estimate safe levels have been too high. The long-term goal should be to eliminate methylene chloride from the workplace. In the meantime, it should be used only under an exhaust hood, and under such conditions that workers do not need to touch the solvent. Please note that gloves are not a solution to skin exposure, since methylene chloride will leak through all currently-used types of safety gloves in a matter of minutes. (Nitrile rubber gloves last the longest, taking about 6.6 minutes for the solvent to leak through.)

**RESPIRATOR ALERT:** In 1984, NIOSH released a warning against the use of Luxfer-manufactured respi-

## DID YOU NOTICE?

**BIG VIDEO IS WATCHING YOU:** Two-thirds of the 13 million Americans who work with video display terminals are being monitored by them, according to a mid-April report given at a New Jersey work and technology conference by 9 to 5, the National Association of Working Women. Employers use their computer systems to report when the operator turns the VDT on or off, count keystrokes by the second, time customer-service transactions, and track the number of operator errors per day. Representatives of 9 to 5 called on workers to insist that workplace computerization be made a subject for collective bargaining.

**DOWN ON THE FARM:** In 1974, when soybeans were bringing farmers nearly \$10 a bushel, a new tractor cost \$14,360. Now the price of soybeans has dropped to \$6 a bushel, while the price of the same tractor has nearly quadrupled to \$55,000.

**NEW YORK CAB STRIKE:** In mid-April, New York City cabdrivers clogged the streets near City Hall with their taxis to protest the City Taxi and Limousine Commission. The drivers protested the six-year freeze on rate hikes, which has meant they can meet their expenses only by working excessively long hours. "We're not being greedy," said Michael Higgins, one of the demonstration's organizers. "A 12-hour day has been pushed into a 16-hour day."

**COAL-MINING DEATHS RISE:** Deaths occurring from roof collapses in US coal mines are at their highest level since 1982, with 11 fatalities reported for the first quarter of 1986. The Mine Safety and Health Administration reported in early April that a total of 28 people were killed in all kinds of mining accidents in the first three months of 1986, as against 67 fatalities for all of 1985. The United Mine Workers of America, representing around 150,000 coal miners, complains that the Labor Department does not enforce federal mine-safety regulations as stringently in smaller mines as it does in operations with more than 50 employees. If the miners wait for the Labor Department to enforce safety regulations, they'll have to wait a long time. Better try direct action themselves.

**ANYTHING FOR A BUCK:** After the meltdown at Russia's Chernobyl nuclear-energy plant, worldwide prices of grain, livestock, and cotton shot up in response to people ready to gamble that radioactive fallout might create shortages in Russia and its neighbors.

**IDAHO SILVER LOCKOUT:** The largest US silver mine, located in Kellogg, Idaho, closed its doors after miners of United Steelworkers of America Local 5089 refused to consider a wage cut proposed by the Sunshine Mining Company. The shutdown, which idles 400 miners, could last till the union contract expires next April, officials have threatened. If the mine stayed closed beyond that date, Sunshine could legally hire non-union workers. The Company offered stock for each worker if the union accepted a Company demand that wages and benefits be cut from an average of \$14 an hour to an average of \$9 an hour.

**PART-TIME WORK INCREASES:** April saw a sharp increase of 385,000 in the number of people who were working part-time because they could not find full-time work. At 5.9 million, the number of people involuntarily working part-time was at a two-year peak.

rator canisters. These canisters are flat-bottomed and fiberglass-wrapped. They lack a steel neck-ring, and could rupture during use unless they are fitted with one. Some 17,000 of these cartridges still have not been returned for attachment of a neck-ring. They are used in self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), made by Bendix, Clifton Precision, Draeger, Scott, Sibe Gorman, and SurvivAir, and other USD respirators. They are labeled DOT-E 7235 4500 or CTC/DOT-E 7235 4500. Anyone using a respirator should check for these canisters. If you find one without a steel neck-ring, the respirator should be taken out of service at once. Luxfer USA (714-684-5110) is refitting canisters with neck-rings on request.

**RESPIRATOR ALERT II:** A recent NIOSH study reveals that some SCBA respirator cylinders are developing cracks and leaking breathing gas during use or while in storage. These cylinders, labeled DOT-E 7235 or DOT-E 8058, should be checked for pressure at least once a week while in storage, and daily before being used.

**THE WATCHDOG'S RUBBER TEETH:** When US workers think of occupational safety and health, they often think of the US Government agency that regulates that area: OSHA. Those thinking that their health and safety will be protected by this federal bureau might consider the case of Union Carbide. Some of you will remember that after the Union Carbide plant at Institute, West Virginia leaked a huge cloud of dangerous fumes (which the company initially claimed were "nontoxic"), injuring 6 plant workers and 135 area residents, the company was fined \$32,100 by OSHA, with great fanfare. In April OSHA quietly reduced the fine to \$4,400.

Just in case anyone happened to notice this masterful disappearing-fine trick, OSHA slapped Union Carbide's Institute plant with a second set of fines, totaling \$1.4 million: a record fine for OSHA. But we can be confident that Union Carbide will never be put to the inconvenience of actually paying most of this fine. The previous OSHA fine record-holder was Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, which in 1978 was fined \$786,190—of which it eventually paid only \$86,580. Strong union organization and a well-educated membership works better and faster.



# WORLD LABOR NEWS

## THE PILLORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND: THE LATIN AMERICAN DEBT

With an external debt of more than \$370 million, the South American continent is approaching asphyxiation. This debt burden is overwhelming the underdeveloped economies of the continent, carrying with it grave social consequences in a region where over a hundred million people live in poverty.

For the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the problem is simple: Latin America must pay, no matter what the repercussions may be. Their plan foresees two conditions: increased exports from the region, and reduced costs. But this plan does not take into account the economic situation of the continent. Prices of Latin American goods in the world market are falling due to competition and collision with the protectionist policies of the industrialized countries. Already by 1982-83 the purchases from the continent by the West had been cut in half. Food imports were cut even while agricultural production fell considerably. This situation, which continues to worsen, constitutes a grave threat to the underclasses, increasing the number of hunger and poverty victims every day.

### CRIMINAL DEMANDS OF THE IMF

The IMF imposes on the diverse governments a disastrous austerity program that fails to consider the reality of each country. Its impositions provoke monetary devaluations, reduced investments, and capital flight. From 1979 to 1982 a hundred million dollars found refuge in American banks. The austerity measures have also resulted in the dismantling of the public sector, a general decline in wages, and a general rise in the prices of consumer goods.

The popular reaction? In Santo Domingo in 1984, there were general strikes and demonstrations in many areas. On October 23rd, 1985, several demonstrations against the IMF mobilized 70,000 people in Mexico and 25,000 in Peru, while thousands more took to the streets in Brazil, Chile, and Colombia. In Argentina the "war economy" was in full force, with wages frozen "for as long as necessary". Along with inflation, buying power was falling while dismissals and layoffs were increasing. January 24th, 1985 saw the fourth general strike against the recession, and the fifth took place in March when Alfonsín was elected President.

The hardest battles were fought in Bolivia, the second-poorest country in the hemisphere (after Haiti). On August 29th, 1985, new measures were decreed that carried with them a 1300% devaluation of the peso, the freezing of wages in public administration, unrestricted dismissals, and the removal of price ceilings. (Ten thousand workers were dismissed in La Paz, from tin mines and the oil sector.) On September 5th the Bolivian Workers Central (COB) proclaimed an unlimited general strike, re-inforced by a simultaneous hunger strike carried out

by hundreds of militant unionists. The Government responded with the threat of a state of siege and exiled 200 union leaders to remote parts of the country.

Faced with the obstinacy of the Government, the miners suspended their struggle at the beginning of October. But on January 23rd of this year the COB proclaimed another general strike.

Brazil has changed its currency several times to keep pace with the recession, but in the country the tension was equally high. On January 10th the town hall of San Luis was attacked and burned by thousands of public employees after 14,500 of them were laid off.

### WHERE DID THE DEBT COME FROM?

To summarize briefly, the imposition of the debt signifies a return to imperialism and to the plunder of raw materials in exchange for manufactures and technology (classic colonialism), with an elite and privileged class (predominantly colonial descendants) making the arrangements and profiting from them via money, power, and privilege.

The IMF loans served first of all to re-inforce this oligarchy's internal control through arms and the bu-

reaucracy. Later the debt became enormous, through the simple mechanism of interest on loans, which has long since exceeded the principal. In the present conditions, no country in Latin America is capable of developing its economy: Argentina devotes 52% of its export earnings to paying the debt, Bolivia 57%.

The debt is thus the main preoccupation of the whole continent, and the crisis the greatest in its history; even the events of 1929 did not have such catastrophic repercussions. A new recession as a means of regulation is no longer possible for this continent on the edge of disaster. Peru proclaims that it has unilaterally limited its payment levels. Brazil refused for more than a year to sign any accord with the IMF. After the fall of oil prices, Mexico and Venezuela put all discussion of preceding accords on hold.

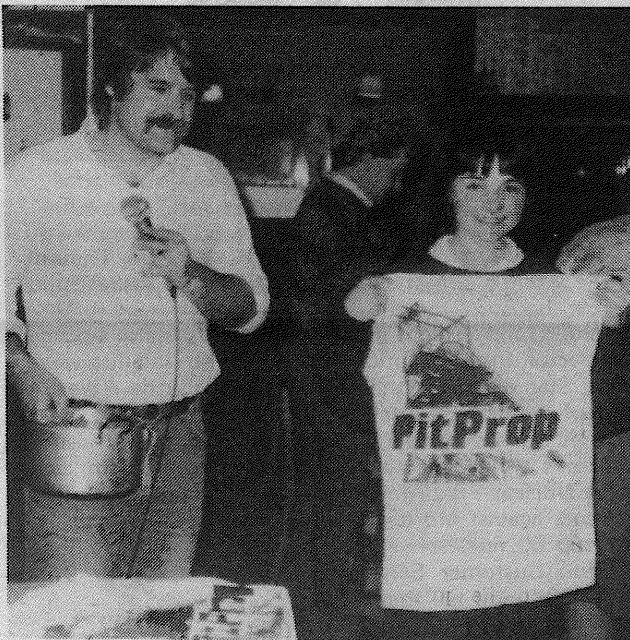
These things do little to improve the situation. Victims of international capitalism, regulated as it is to favor the richest nations, the Latin American countries are being suffocated by the banks with the complicity of the local ruling class, resulting in hunger, misery, and savage exploitation.

(Edited and translated from *Umanita Nova* by Mike Hargis.)

## Amnesty for British Miners

Enclosed are some photographs from our latest miners' benefit. We're holding another with the Red Guitars, a well-known British band, and hope to raise at least 700 pounds. Below are the names and addresses of sacked or imprisoned Nottinghamshire miners, supplied to us by the Welbeck Amnesty group.

Mark Hunter (Welbeck Colliery), 28 Mount Street, Mansfield, Notts.



Ron Cooper speaking at a recent benefit for sacked and imprisoned British miners.

Charles Brown and Tony Geddes (Welbeck), PO Box 1, Warlop, Notts NG20 0NR.

Bob Andrews (Creswell), 11 Sycamore Close, Bolsover, Chesterfield.

Jimmy Lees (Bevercoates), 36 Chestnut Drive, New Ollerton, Newark, Notts.

Mike Boyle (Silverwood), 33 West Crescent, Sunnyside, Rotherham.

We have had many requests for American trade-union badges, key rings, and the like, and would be obliged if you could put out an appeal for us. The situation has become more urgent, as some sacked miners have now been evicted from their homes.

Yours Fraternally

Ron Cooper  
97 Hemswell Avenue  
Greatfield Estate  
Hull HU9 5JZ England

The *Industrial Worker* has also been advised of a demonstration and rally in March calling for the release and re-instatement of all sacked and jailed miners and the return of the funds stolen by the Government from the National Union of Mineworkers, and has been provided with a list of 16 Northumberland miners blacklisted as a result of the strike. A letter from Northumberland NUM President Denis Murphy explains that "Some of these men are sacked after being tried in court and found not guilty, while others have never been charged in court with any offense and remain sacked for no reason... Since the dispute ended we have been able to get only one sacrificed member's job back. If this is British justice, then it seems to me to be a very unrealistic system."

A report of the amnesty campaign here in the US ran in the most-recent issue of the *National Boycott Newsletter*, urging readers to boycott British tourism until the imprisoned miners are released and the blacklisted miners get their jobs back.

Chicago General Defense Committee Local 2 (3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657) has received a supply of 50 beautiful lacquered four-color British Miners Solidarity badges, and is giving them to those who donate \$10 or more for financial aid to the miners who are blacklisted and/or in prison. GDC Local 2 will also accept smaller donations for the miners, and will forward union badges and other similar items that can be used in England for fundraising purposes. GDC Local 2 and the Chicago IWW also continue to seek signatures on petitions demanding amnesty for British miners. Petitions and leaflets are available on request.

### SUBIC STRIKE ENDED

Pickers holding out against settlement of a 12-day strike at the US bases in the Philippines agreed to return to work April 2nd, saying "We have reached the limitations of our power." More than a thousand strikers at Subic Naval Station had held out against the proposed settlement two days earlier.

The end of the holdout at Subic Bay came about at least partly because of pressure from business officials in Olongapo City, where the economy is based on what is known as the "entertainment industry". Owners of bars, nightclubs, and restaurants said they lost \$1.2 million in the strike, which kept most US troops confined to the base.

**STUDENT STRIKE IN CHILE:** Riot police and Government troops in battle gear arrested 451 students April 17th on the second day of a 48-hour anti-Government strike. The worst incidents occurred at the Metropolitan University in Santiago, where students occupied buildings and threw stones at the police who evicted them under cover of tear gas.

### MAY DAY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Millions of South African workers joined a one-day general strike on May Day, crippling factories, mines, transportation, and stores. Together with a simultaneous school boycott involving over a million urban black students by the Government's own admission, the May Day actions constituted the most effective protest against apartheid in South Africa's history. Associated Press reports noted that the strike, the largest May Day action in the world, "signals powerful new organizational strength among black workers, students, and civic groups". The South African Associated Chambers of Commerce reported that nowhere was the strike less than 70% successful, and that in many parts of the country it was a complete success.

In Port Elizabeth (Eastern Cape) a survey of 86 companies showed only 6 of 11,000 black workers scabbing, and substantial participation among mixed-race and Asian workers as well. It was the first national general strike since May 31st, 1961, and press reports indicate that it was so overwhelmingly successful that the small groups which in past stay-aways have sought to intimidate workers into staying home were largely absent and unneeded. Police reported arresting nearly 150 and killing at least two workers during the day.

Elijah Barayi, president of the 650,000 member Congress of South African Trade Unions, spoke at a May Day rally, noting that "Whether the Government likes it or not, we are going to make May 1st a paid holiday. But we know we are going to do that through our blood."

In other South African developments, the treason trial against four leaders of the South African Allied Workers Union continues on an intermittent basis, and readers are urged to protest to the South African Government demanding that charges be withdrawn (see article in our last issue). And efforts by the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union, the Azanian Congress of Trade Unions (AZACTU), and the Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA) are completing efforts to establish a new, more-reformist union center to be launched in July.

### SALVADORAN MAY DAY STRIKE

On May 1st a crowd of workers estimated at 15,000 to 25,000 marched through the streets of San Salvador in a demonstration of growing labor-union activity and popular criticism of President Duarte and US intervention in El Salvador. Agricultural co-operative members, construction workers, some public employees, teachers, and university students chanted slogans condemning austerity measures and US military aid to the Salvadoran Government. The US embassy was spray-painted with slogans condemning the US. A notable feature of the march was the presence of leftist guerrilla supporters in face masks along the route. At a rally after the march, speaker after speaker, including a delegation of Americans opposed to the US policy in Central America, took the podium to denounce the Duarte Government.

In El Salvador, a new labor-union federation known as the National Salvadoran Workers Union was recently formed expressly to be independent of both the Government and the AFL-CIO-affiliated Institute for Free Labor Development, which is increasingly recognized as the CIA tool it is.

On May 6th Jose Aristides Mendez, secretary general of the National Association of Postal Employees of El Salvador, was shot dead on his way to work in the capital.

**WAGE-FLOOR RAISE IN ARGENTINA:** Under the pressure of frequent labor strikes, the Argentine Government announced in early April that it would permit salaries and wages to rise 18 to 25% during the remainder of 1986. The Government decreed wage and price freezes in June 1985.

**NORWEGIAN STRIKE:** A strike wave broke out in Norway in early April after negotiations on the annual wage agreement broke down. Some 14,000 hotel and restaurant workers were locked out by their employers. Strikes in the country's oil fields kept Norway's daily output of 900,000 barrels off the market.



# Workers Sharing Experiences

(continued from Page 1)

Missouri factory where shop-floor direct action succeeded in turning back a company's union-busting efforts and won back 30 workers' jobs, and efforts to publicize anti-labor repression around the world and to bring pressure to bear in solidarity. Stan Weir—a West Coast longshore worker—spoke on the progression of anti-labor decisions by the NLRB and the courts which have gradually eroded the right to strike, noting that it was the class collaborationism and timidity of US unions that gave these rulings their force.

The May 2nd discussions closed with a presentation by Bonile Tulumu of the South African Allied Workers Union, who gave a detailed account of the background to South African workers' current struggles before briefly discussing the formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (with which SAAWU is affiliated), SAAWU's structure and organizing approach, and some strikes the union is currently fighting. Tulumu stressed the historic efforts by South Africa's black workers to forge unity between workers of all races—efforts which continue with some success to this day—and the dominant role of transnational corporations in South Africa's economy.

## NEW APPROACHES TO ORGANIZING

May 3rd opened with FW Mark Kaufman speaking on a developing IWW organizing drive, which is relying on building strong shop-floor organizations (whether with the support of a majority or minority of the workforce) throughout the targeted industry, rather than attempting the tried and failed method of working through the processes of the NLRB. Other delegates discussed the organizing situations in England, France, Quebec, and Sweden, including discussion on the feasibility of organizing revolutionary unions (as opposed to efforts to work within the reformist business unions). While stressing the need for independent, revolutionary unions, delegates from SAC and the IWW observed that the tendency of the reformist unions to act as insurance and service brokers administered by the bureaucracy for a fee has led many workers to expect their union to do everything for them, perhaps asking their opinion on occasion. Revolutionary unions, of course, cannot function in this way.

Discussion then turned (after lunch) to global industries, with a short presentation on the global nature of capitalism and reports on efforts by IBM and dockworkers to build international solidarity. Only 10,000 IBM workers are unionized—ranging from 1% in Japan to 85% in Greece—but by sticking together they have been able to stop harassment of union members in Greece and restrict management's ability to track workers (through computerized ID badges) in Italy, and they hope to do more in the future. The third international meeting of IBM workers is slated for May 1987 in the US. Stan Weir spoke on efforts by (primarily European) dockworkers to build international solidarity. Six congresses of dockworkers have been held in Europe (one of which he was able to attend), developing communication networks enabling union workers to refuse to handle cargoes loaded by scab labor. The network includes workers in Belgium, England, Germany, Holland, Spain, and Sweden, and has been seeking to establish a data and communications network accessible to all rank-and-file workers. FW Weir spoke enthusiastically of the Spanish dockworkers' organization, Coordinadora, which is entirely rank-and-file controlled and has refused to ship munitions to Central America.

The suppression of independent unions in the Soviet sphere and much of the Third World hampers efforts to build solidarity, as does the absence of communications between workers in the same industries (what communications there are are usually confined to union bureaucracies and rarely reach the rank and file). An example of how repression inhibits labor solidarity was seen in the British coal strike, in which much of the scab coal was imported from Poland (and trans-shipped through Poland from Russia).

The afternoon closed with Fellow Workers Richard Christopher, Judy-Lynn Freeman, and Carlos Cortez of the IWW and Roger Featherstone of Earth First speaking on ecology inside and outside the workplace. It was noted that workers are affected by toxic chemicals and pollution all along the line, not only producing and handling these poisons on the job, but also having to live with them in our communities. While the environmental movement has become trendy in much of the industrialized world, little attention is paid to the workplace, where these problems begin and where exposure is most acute.

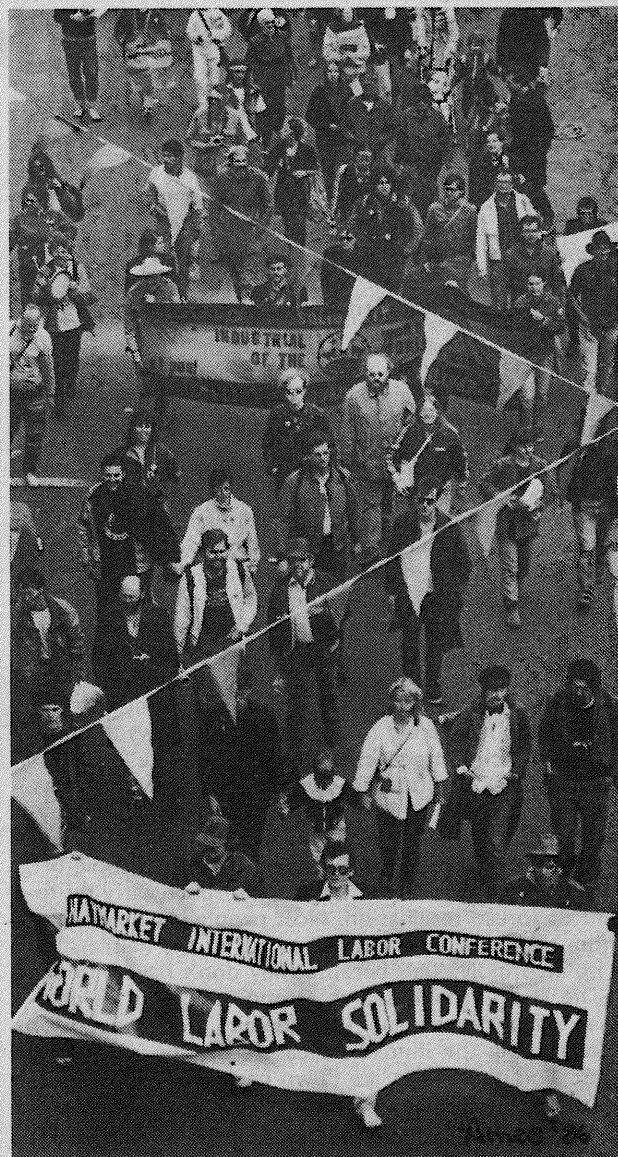
The need to conserve resources and land for future generations of workers was noted, as were efforts by employers to play workers and environmentalists off against one another (though ecologically-sound alternatives in most cases would increase employment, if not profits, while also making the world a better place to live). FW Christopher noted official estimates that some two-and-a-half million workers die each year from occupational accidents and diseases, suggesting that revolutionary unionists must address this question both to preserve the lives of our fellow workers and to make the connections between the conditions of our work and the degree of our control over it. During discussion it was pointed out that the environmental issue is entirely a labor issue—if workers didn't build nuclear plants, for example, we wouldn't have them.

## LABOR IN LATIN AMERICA

Martin Nilsson of the Swedish Workers Centralization (SAC), who had just completed a visit to several Latin American countries, spoke in the evening on the struggles of Bolivian workers, who are confronted with miserable living and working conditions, horrendous inflation (15,000% last year), recurring danger of military coups, and widespread belief in the efficacy of political action despite its record of total failure thus far. The Bolivian Workers' Center (COB) includes an overwhelming majority of Bolivia's working class and has waged many militant and determined struggles, but is not syndicalist. Nilsson argued that until Bolivia's workers shed their faith in political action and are able to unite with their (now poorly organized) fellow workers in neighboring countries, their condition is unlikely to improve substantially.

The final sessions, on May 4th, addressed the pressing need for improved communications and solidarity. Extensive discussions took place, and seven measures were approved to be circulated among revolutionary unions and rank-and-file groups for endorsement and action. A proposal by Coordinadora for an international computerized information network was extensively discussed, and it was generally agreed that this was a desirable goal to work toward, but was beyond the scope of current resources.

A Conference statement was then adopted (printed



Delegates from the Haymarket International Labor Conference joined 600 marchers celebrating May Day 1986.

in this issue and being sent out to revolutionary unions all over the world), and telegrams to the French Government (demanding that full union rights be extended to the CNT in the postal and telecommunications sector) and Spanish Government (demanding the withdrawal of the Government's union-busting dockwork scheme and adoption of Coordinadora's proposals) were approved.

The Conference closed with an evening session at which IWW Fellow Workers Jon Bekken and Mike Hargis spoke on Haymarket and the Spanish Revolution, and Marek Garztecki spoke on the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, placing special emphasis on the need for workers' self-management and independent organization. After a wide-ranging discussion, the floor was turned over to IWW General Defense Committee Secretary Arthur Miller, who spoke on the forthcoming relocation of Native American workers from Big Mountain. Following FW Miller's rousing speech, the delegates broke out the beer and wine and socialized.

(This account of the Conference is necessarily highly condensed—long as it is. A more complete summary of the discussions is in preparation and should be available in early June for \$1.50 postpaid.)

plp/jb

# "The Revolutionary Workers Movement Lives!"

## HILC STATEMENT

(The following statement was issued by the delegates present at the Haymarket International Labor Conference May 4th. These included the IWW, SAC (Swedish Workers Central Organization), WSM-IWA (Workers Solidarity Movement of Japan, section of the International Workers Association), syndicalist delegates from the French Anarchist Federation, and the Solidarnosc Information Bureau of Great Britain.)

Workers all over the world celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Haymarket affair this year. In 1886, like today, revolutionary workers were being attacked by the State and the bosses because of their desire to build a society without starvation, exploitation, oppression, or inequality.

The attending organizations on this last day of the Haymarket International Labor Conference would like to make everyone aware of the fact that we (revolutionary unionists) are still here, still alive. The revolutionary workers' movement is not dead.

Long Live World Labor Solidarity! Workers of the World, Organize!

HAYMARKET  
INTERNATIONAL  
LABOR CONFERENCE  
CHICAGO, MAY 4TH, 1986

**TIME FOR A  
FOUR HOUR DAY!**

## HILC SEVEN-POINT PROGRAM

The following seven-point program for improving communications among revolutionary unionists worldwide was adopted by the delegates present on the last day of the Haymarket International Labor Conference: IWW, SAC, WSM-IWA, Solidarnosc Information Bureau, and FAF-syndicalists. The acceptance by the delegates of these seven points in no way binds their organizations to them. Nor should this program be construed as the setting up of a new international organization of revolutionary unionists. It is merely an attempt to improve communication and co-operation among the world's revolutionary unionists.)

(1) Regular exchange of publications via airmail (to speed up the flow of information).

(2) Exchange of information concerning the languages which each organization can understand and/or work with, including Esperanto.

(3) Try to conduct communications in English and Spanish (with other languages as needed).

(4) Exchange of addresses of revolutionary unions, rank-and-file labor organizations, and labor-support groups, with a brief description of their size, industrial concentration, international affiliations, and political orientation.

(5) Establishment of an emergency communications network, including the names and telephone numbers of contact persons in the different organizations; and the setting up of a telephone chain or "tree".

(6) Encourage each organization to issue a newsletter, containing information on their activities and struggles in their region, in both English and Spanish for international distribution.

(7) That a revolutionary union volunteer to sponsor another international conference within four years to follow up on the findings and recommendations of the Haymarket International Labor Conference.

## WHY JOIN THE IWW?

Because there are things we can do together that we cannot do alone. Some of these things will benefit your job, and some will merely benefit the human race. Whether we are in a position to get you a pay raise or not, your conscience will repay you and your self-respect will increase if you join with us to get things done.

Since we are a union, this offer is open only to those who work for wages or salary. But since we are building One Big Union, it is open to workers whether they happen to bargain through other unions or not. Look at the directory on Page 7. If you can readily reach someone there, please do so. If not, write to the General Secretary, IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657, with a line about your job. The initiation fee is \$5 in the US and Canada, and dues are \$5 a month.



BOOKS ON HIGH TECH

Whatever Happened to Job Security? The 1985 Slow-down in the Massachusetts High Tech Industry, published by the High Tech Research Group, PO Box 441001, West Somerville, Massachusetts 02144, January 1986, \$6

Silicon Valley High Tech Industry: Ready for Organizing/A Discussion Paper for Unions, by Michael Eisenscher, 138 South 20th Street, San Jose, California 95116, July 1985, \$1.50

Silicon Valley: A Digest of Electronics Data, by Michael Eisenscher, August 1984, \$3

These research reports show that high-tech corporations produce not only microchips, but also pollution, oppressive working conditions, and unemployment. The areas covered by the reports—Massachusetts's high-tech corridor and California's Silicon Valley—are the two largest centers of the US computer industry. Silicon Valley makes chips, the basic units of modern electronic gear; the Massachusetts corridor puts chips together to make computers. Both areas make other products as well, but the chips-to-computers trade is their mainstay.

Whatever Happened to Job Security? shows that over 7,000 Massachusetts electronics workers were laid off in 1985 and over 22,000 were put on involuntary furloughs. This is just the tip of the iceberg, because many employers (including one of the largest: Digital) have a "no lay-off" policy—meaning that instead of laying people off, they fire them or squeeze them out through early retirement or forced resignation. Most people get no warning before they lose their jobs. They suffer the helplessness of isolated individuals because they don't have a union.

The High-Tech Research Group, a committee composed mainly of pro-union academics, does a good job of explaining the immediate causes of this unemployment: Computer sales are down because overall investment is down. Companies that have outgrown their original specialized markets are forced to cut costs to compete (or else they fail to compete and go under). So they are automating their production and moving much of it overseas. The Group argues that union seniority and grievance procedures, plus plant-closing laws, would give the workers more protection. It does not suggest how to solve the problems that cause the unemployment in the first place.

Michael Eisenscher, a former United Electrical Workers organizer who is now a free-lance labor consultant, describes similar conditions in Silicon Valley. In addition, the Valley suffers from serious pollution and workplace hazards caused by the chemicals used to make chips. It has a longer and harsher history of unemployment. Chip manufacturing is a boom-and-bust industry because it requires enormous capital investments and because its products have a short life cycle. It relies on foreign-born and women workers and maintains wage levels 20 to 30% below unionized basic industries. Eisenscher's Digest of Electronics Data gives statistics on these conditions, which are used in his Discussion Paper for Unions to argue for an organizing drive in the Valley. The sources for the statistics are not given (though he offers to give them

LITERATURE

Practical and Informational:

- ( ) Organizing Manual . . . . .75
- ( ) Collective Bargaining Manual . . . . . 2.50
- ( ) Labor Law for the Rank and Filer \* . . . . . 2.50
- ( ) One Big Union (About the IWW) . . . . . 1.25
- ( ) Workers' Guide to Direct Action . . . . . .35
- ( ) The General Strike (by Ralph Chaplin) . . . . . .75
- ( ) Unions and Racism . . . . . 1.00
- ( ) Abolish the Wage System (ND) . . . . . .50
- ( ) IWW Preamble and Constitution . . . . . 1.00
- ( ) Metal Workers' Guide to Health and Safety . . . . . .50
- ( ) A Quiz on You and the Arms Race . . . . . .10
- (10 copies .85; 100 copies 4.00, 3.50 per additional 100)

Music and Poetry:

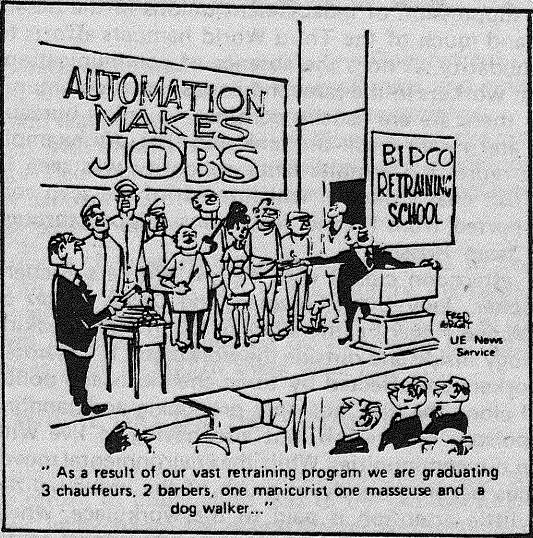
- ( ) IWW Little Red Songbook . . . . . 1.75
- ( ) The Rebel Girl (sheet music) . . . . . .50
- ( ) Didactic Verse (by Henry Pfaff) \* . . . . . 2.00
- ( ) Workers of the World Awaken (sheet music) . . . . . .50
- ( ) We Have Fed You All for a . . . . . 8.50
- Thousand Years (LP) (ND)

Historical:

- ( ) The IWW: Its First 70 Years (hardcover) . . . . . 15.00
- ( ) The IWW: Its First 70 Years (paperback) . . . . . 4.95
- ( ) Founding Convention of the IWW \* (ND) . . . . . 15.00
- ( ) History of the IWW in Canada . . . . . .50
- ( ) Joe Hill: IWW Songwriter . . . . . 1.00
- ( ) Lucy Parsons: American Revolutionary \* . . . . . 5.95
- ( ) Autobiography of Mother Jones\* . . . . . 5.95
- ( ) The Right to Be Lazy \* . . . . . 2.25
- ( ) Mr. Block: 24 IWW Cartoons\* . . . . . 4.95

Buttons:

- ( ) Build Militant Unionism . . . . . .75
- ( ) For More of the Good Things of Life . . . . . .75
- ( ) General Defense Button . . . . . .35



on request). This makes the Digest much less useful than it could have been.

These reports give useful facts and some good reasons why electronics workers need to organize. They have serious limitations, however. They focus on only one section of the workforce: the production and assembly workers. Technical workers (engineers and programmers) are mentioned only in passing. Not mentioned at all is "the field"—the workers who distribute, install, and service computer products—the largest part of the workforce. Probably these reports concentrate on production and assembly because these are the job categories the AFL-CIO has organized in other industries. But in the computer industry, any serious organizing effort would have to go after the technical and field people as well as the production workers.

These reports also fail to consider the serious problems AFL-CIO-style organizing faces due to the size of the computer corporations. These are transnational corporations that can avoid organization by moving their factories to other continents. (They can't do this with field offices, though—another reason why organizing field people is so important.) They can hire anti-union consultants who know how to beat traditional union organizers in every phase of the collective-bargaining game. They have the money to outwait almost any walk-out strike. Transnational corporations can be beaten only by organizing on an all-industry, worldwide basis—using tactics that will not be blessed by the NLRB. This means that IWW methods have a better chance of success than AFL-CIO methods.

IBM

WOBBLE OF THE MONTH

Why do Polish workers stand up after the first line of the Internationale when it is sung at rallies and the like, while Party hacks wait for the second?

Consider the words: "Arise ye prisoners of starvation; arise ye wretched of the Earth."

LUCY PARSONS POSTER AVAILABLE

A new linocut poster by FW Carlos Cortez has been issued to mark the Haymarket centennial. It bears a portrait of Lucy Parsons, and an excerpt from her speech to the IWW's founding convention urging that instead of mounting drawn-out strikes workers should occupy the factories and run them themselves. If anyone has to go hungry, she argued, let it be the owners. Copies are available from the IWW for \$10 postpaid.

Posters:

- ( ) Joe Hill . . . . . 10.00
- ( ) General Strike . . . . . 10.00
- ( ) Huelga General . . . . . 10.00
- ( ) Draftees of the World Unite . . . . . 10.00
- ( ) Four Hours Work for Eight Hours Pay . . . . . 10.00
- ( ) Fat Cat . . . . . 10.00

\*These items are offered for sale as a convenience to the readers of the IW. They are not official IWW literature, and the union takes no position on their content. The IWW does not engage in direct or indirect alliances with political or anti-political groups or sects. Quantity discounts are available on only some of the above titles.

Subscribe to the Industrial Worker

NAME.....

STREET.....

CITY..... STATE/PROVINCE..... ZIP/POSTAL CODE.....

ENCLOSED IS:

☐ \$1.50 for a six-month introductory subscription

☐ \$4.00 for a one-year regular subscription

☐ \$8.00 for a one-year library subscription

☐ \$7.50 for a two-year regular subscription

☐ \$11.00 for a three-year regular subscription

☐ \$6.00 for a bundle of 5 copies monthly for 1 year

☐ \$..... as a donation to the IW Sustaining Fund

PLEASE SEND ALL ORDERS TO: IWW, 3435 NORTH SHEFFIELD, SUITE 202, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60657

EASING OF ANTI-BRIBE LAW SOUGHT

Business lobbyists say a Democratic trade bill brought before the House of Representatives in mid-April looks like their best opportunity in years to ease the 1977 prohibitions against the bribing of foreign officials by American companies. Though the Reagan Administration has consistently supported modifying the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and has brought few prosecutions under it, previous efforts to weaken the law have failed.

The new bill, among other things, would make it harder for prosecutors to prove knowledge of improper payments, modifying the standard for prosecution from having "reason to know" a corrupt payment had been made to actually "knowing" of such a payment.

The current law was passed in the wake of disclosures of bribes and questionable payments by many US corporations to foreign officials and companies. US business groups claim strict adherence to the law would cost them billions in lost business opportunities.

LIES, DAMN LIES AND STATISTICS: The Federal Government announced in early May that the personal incomes of Americans rose an average of 5.3% in 1985, slightly outpacing a 3.8% rise in consumer prices, which put the national income per capita at \$13,451. Broken down by income level, this means that the rich got richer faster than the poor got poorer.

IW SUSTAINING FUND

(Received During February 1986)

Toshio Hisada, Japan . . . . .	20.00
James Erickson, Minneapolis, Minnesota . . . . .	4.00
Stanley Rosen, Chicago, Illinois . . . . .	1.00
Gunnar Kouisto, Lakeworth Florida . . . . .	2.50
John Einsiedel, Dallas, Texas . . . . .	2.00
John Barrett, Austin, Texas . . . . .	10.00
Joyce Baylen, Jamaica, New York . . . . .	5.00
Harry Siitonen, San Francisco, California . . . . .	2.50
San Francisco General Membership Branch . . . . .	6.00
Robert Kieth, Torrance, California . . . . .	20.00
Conrad Sinhart, Bronx, New York . . . . .	.50

TOTAL . . . . .	73.50
Industrial Worker loss for February . . . . .	456.53

(Received During March 1986)

Patrick Hanlon, Fort Bragg, California . . . . .	10.00
Pat McMillen, Duluth, Minnesota . . . . .	52.00
Sylvia Harrington, New Port Richey, Florida . . . . .	15.00
Mike Gunderson, West Allis, Wisconsin . . . . .	3.55
Eric Hart, Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts . . . . .	6.00
Edward Abbey, Oracle, Arizona . . . . .	96.00
S. Parsons, Eureka, California . . . . .	5.00
Echard Herve, Fitzroy, Australia . . . . .	14.00
John Spitzberg, Allakaket, Alaska . . . . .	70.00
X331052, Chicago, Illinois . . . . .	26.58

TOTAL . . . . .	298.13
Industrial Worker loss for March . . . . .	359.49

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

LITERATURE DISCOUNT POLICY

Bulk orders of five or more of any item on the IWW Literature List, unless otherwise indicated, may be ordered at a 40% discount if orders are prepaid. We offer a 30% discount on similar orders which we must invoice. Postage will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks for delivery. (ND) indicates that no discount is available.

AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL IWW GROUPS:

A Workers' Guide to Direct Action: 50¢. New York IWW, PO Box 183, New York 10028.

Fellow Union Member: 10¢ each; bundles of 5 to 15, 5¢; 16 to 500, 3¢; over 500, 2¢. Tacoma/Olympia IWW, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma, Washington 98405.

Introduction to the IWW: 10¢ each; bulk rate 40% discount, paid in advance. San Francisco IWW, PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140.

Solidarity Bulletin (monthly publication): \$10 a year. Vancouver IWW, PO Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6J 4P3.

IWW baseball caps (one size fits all): \$4 each, add \$1 each for shipping. University Cellar IU 660 Job Branch (checks to IWW), 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107.



# SOCIAL ROOTS OF CANCER

## POVERTY AS A CARCINOGEN

In the US health data are much more often broken down by race than by income; when blacks are shown to endure much poorer health than whites, bigots consider themselves vindicated. But growing evidence indicates that poverty, not race, accounts for the inferior health of blacks: Blacks are much more likely to develop debilitating conditions and diseases and to die from them at a younger age because they are much more likely to be poor.

Cancer is only one of the menaces to health and longevity that hound the US poor more than everyone else. There are infant mortality, hypertension, diabetes, obesity, cirrhosis, schizophrenia, accidents, and murder. From low birth weight to high blood pressure, being poor is hazardous to your health.

Of the slew of health threats aimed especially at blacks and the poor, cancer has been rising in importance. Since the late 1960s, blacks have been dying of heart attacks and strokes in declining numbers. (No one's sure why, and the rates are still much higher than for whites.) In the meantime, the cancer death rate for blacks has spiraled. In the 1950s, whites and blacks died of cancer at equal rates. But while the cancer death rate for whites has increased only 10% since then, the rate for blacks has jumped 40%. Blacks today are about 33% more likely to die of cancer than whites.

Why the poor get cancer more often than the rich is still a matter of speculation, but smoking appears to be one of the main reasons. According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) about 45% of black men smoke, compared with 37% of white men. The proportion of white men who smoke has been decreasing since the mid-'60s, and the most recent NCI statistics indicate that their rate of lung cancer has begun to decline too. Meanwhile, more black men (and more women of both races) are smoking, and their lung-cancer rates continue to climb.

Blacks and the poor drink more heavily, increasing their chances of developing esophageal cancer. According to nutrition surveys, diets of the poor are likely to be high in fat and low in fiber, fruits, and vegetables. Such diets have been linked with cancers of the stomach, colon, breast, prostate, endometrium, and esophagus. Blacks have been over-represented in industries whose workers develop lung cancer and other types of cancer at high rates; within these industries, blacks historically have been assigned the most-hazardous jobs—topside coke-oven work in steel mills, mixing and compounding in rubber plants.

Once they have cancer, the odds of blacks living very long aren't nearly as good as for whites. According to the NCI, about 37% of blacks with cancer survive the first five years, compared with 50% of whites. The reason black cancer patients fare so poorly seems to be late diagnosis. A lack of access to quality medical care and a lack of knowledge of cancer warning signs and tests combine to make the poor more likely to have their cancers diagnosed after they've already spread. Many work in jobs that provide no health-care coverage, and simply can't afford the tests and examinations they need. For others who do have health insurance, taking time off work to get checked out may seem risky: The bosses think they're sick or goofing off.

Studies comparing blacks and whites whose cancers are diagnosed at the same stages show that even then blacks do worse. Some studies have implicated the quality of the medical care blacks receive, showing that black and white patients with cancers at similar stages who get similar medical care have similar survival rates. But other studies have shown black survival rates to be worse even when controlling for stage and medical care.

In the December 1984 issue of the journal *Cancer*, doctors at Harlem Hospital reported on the effect of poverty on survival in patients with multiple myeloma, a type of cancer characterized by anemia, kidney failure, bone pain, and fractures. They compared black patients at Harlem Hospital, a public hospital serving one of New York's poorest neighborhoods, with black and white patients at a private hospital in upper Manhattan. The median survival time of the private patients was two and a half to three years, with comparable survival rates for blacks and whites. The median survival rate for the poorer Harlem Hospital patients was one year. Quality of care, compliance with treatment, stage of disease, and incidence of co-morbid conditions, such as alcoholism, were studied and not found to account for the difference.

Instead, the researchers, using census-tract data, found the most-significant factor affecting length of survival to be overcrowding. Patients from overcrowded blocks died much quicker, and researchers suggested that the stress of life in poorer neighborhoods might breed more-aggressive tumors. In animal experiments, stressful environments have been shown to encourage the growth of tumors, and crowding has been shown to produce a variety of pathologies in both humans and animals.

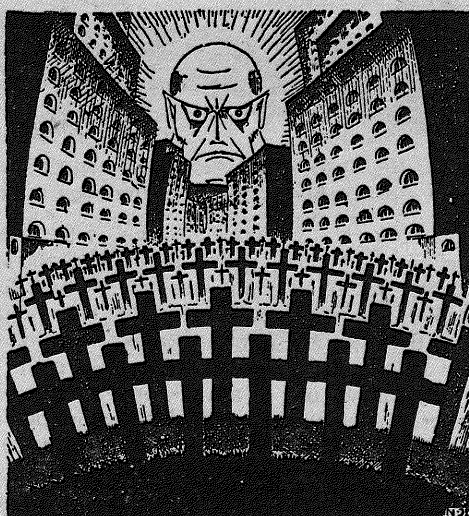
The report concluded with the observation that "although innovative treatment regimens might improve the outcome for this group of patients over the short run... addressing the fundamental socio-economic disparities would appear to be a more rational approach on a long-term basis."

Indeed. And addressing socio-economic disparities is our business, brother and sister workers.

## CANCER RESEARCH

In 1984, about 450,000 men and women died of cancer in the US, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS). The number of new cancer cases and the number of cancer-related deaths have been on the rise since the 1950s. By 1980, cancer accounted for 21% of all deaths, making it the second leading cause of death in the nation.

The National Institute on Occupational Safety and Health estimates that six million Americans are exposed to known carcinogens at their workplaces. The federally-funded National Cancer Institute (NCI) estimates that 90% of cancers are environmentally caused. More conservative estimates range from 60% on up, tracing about 30% of cancer causes to pollutants in air and water, and another 30% to the intake of carcinogens in food.



Yet neither the ACS, a private agency, nor the NCI devotes a substantial portion of its funds to investigating causes of cancer, and both agencies have declined to participate in efforts to regulate the use of known carcinogens. Instead, they prefer to fund research on methods of treating cancer after it has been diagnosed. Most of their grants support the study of cancer as a dysfunction of the cells' reproductive mechanism, rather than as the product of social and economic failures.

This attitude can be explained partly by the agencies' ties to the very industries and corporations that would suffer from regulation. It is not surprising that these corporations are more willing to put a small amount of their profits into fighting cancer after the fact, than to challenge the actual source of the cancers—which is also the source of their profits.

The ACS, the richest of all the private disease-related philanthropies in the US, was founded in 1913 as an outlet for some of John D. Rockefeller's charitable whims. It has always opposed a regulatory approach, even in cases concerning the manufacture and use of well-known carcinogens. In 1972, consumers were horrified to learn that traces of the synthetic hormone DES, used to fatten livestock, had been discovered in their beef. DES had been shown to produce cancer in male mice as early as 1938, and later studies connected the hormone to cancer of the uterus, cervix, and ovary in women, and of the breast in both women and men. Nonetheless, the ACS would not take a stand, refusing to lend its weight to legislative efforts to limit the use of DES.

The ACS has shown little interest in the cancerous effects of air and water pollution. When a Federal Government study revealed that cancer tended to be most prevalent in highly-industrialized areas, and cited New Jersey as the most cancer-ridden, the ACS vice-president in charge of epidemiology dismissed the findings as an attempt by state health officials to create "an aura of cancer phobia to get money for studies". And he added, "I believe we can save more lives... by getting people to stop smoking than by a stepped-up anti-industrial campaign." Even in its anti-smoking campaign, however, the ACS has avoided controls on the tobacco industry, concentrating on getting serious smokers to kick the habit.

Ultimately, the cancer institutes' inaction on the environmental front reflects pervasive political assumptions about what aspects of society can or cannot be changed. Until the working class is ready to challenge the owning class for control of the means of production, it is politically more acceptable to the powers that be to figure out how cancer works in a cell than to combat the detrimental effects of chemicals in the environment.

## AIDS AND JOB DISCRIMINATION

The epidemic of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome that has killed nearly 10,000 people in five years has spawned a new wave of employment-discrimination claims.

Few AIDS cases have gone to court, in part because many people with the disease are reluctant to face the publicity that comes with filing a lawsuit, and in part because the legal process is so slow and AIDS so deadly that AIDS victims know they may die before their case is heard. Also lawyers familiar with AIDS discrimination say that over the last two years most major employers

# IWW DIRECTORY

**ALASKA:** Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage 99508. Barry Roderick, Delegate, Box 748, Douglas 99824.

**AUSTRALIA:** IWW Delegate, 417 King Street (1st Floor), Newton, Sydney.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA:** Vancouver General Membership Branch, Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver V6J 4P3, Canada, (604) 876-8438. West Kootenay IWW Group, Box 941, Nelson V1L 6A5, Canada.

**CALIFORNIA:** San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, Box 40485, San Francisco 94140. Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland 94609 (415) 658-0293. David Bernreuter, Delegate, 718 Cayuga Street, Santa Cruz 95062. R. M. R. Kroopkin, Delegate, 3924½ Park Boulevard, San Diego 92103.

**FLORIDA:** Fred Hansen, Box 824, New Port Richey 33552.

**GUAM:** Shelby Shapiro, Box 864, Agana 96910.

**IDAHO:** IWW Delegate, Route 1, Box 137, Potlatch 83855.

**ILLINOIS:** Chicago General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee Local 2, 3435 North Sheffield (Suite 202), Chicago 60657, (312) 549-5045. Meetings first Sunday of each month at 1 pm. Champaign-Urbana IWW Group, Jeff Stein, Delegate, Box 2824, Station A, Champaign 61820.

**KANSAS:** General Defense Committee, Arthur J. Miller, Secretary, Box 6130, Kansas City 66106.

**KENTUCKY:** Louisville IWW Group, 2024 Baringer Avenue, Louisville 40204.

**LOUISIANA:** IWW Group, Box 16725, Baton Rouge 70893.

**MANITOBA:** Winnipeg IWW Group, "Haywire Brack", Delegate, Box 161, Station C, Winnipeg R3M 3S7, Canada.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Boston General Membership Branch Box 454, Cambridge 02139. Meetings first Monday of each month, 522-7090. Western Massachusetts IWW Group, Box 465, Hadley 01035.

**MICHIGAN:** Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti 48197, (313) 483-3478. Meetings second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in Room 4001 of the Michigan Union. University Cellar IU 660 Job Branch, 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor 48104. People's Warehouse IU 660 Job Branch, c/o Sarah Rucker, 727 West Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor 48104. IWW Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids 49506.

**MINNESOTA:** Twin Cities General Membership Branch, Nancy Arthur Collins, Delegate, 1621 Marshall (3), Saint Paul 55104. Meetings third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

**MONTANA:** Clark Fork Valley IWW Group, Box 8562, Missoula 59807, (406) 728-6053. A. L. Nurse, Delegate, Route 5, Box 88, Thompson Falls 59874, (406) 827-3238

**NEW YORK:** New York General Membership Branch, Box 183, New York City 10028. Delegates: Robert Young, Box 920, Wingdale 12594. Joe O'Shea, Winklers Farm, Towners Road, Carmel 10512. Rochelle Semel, 788 Columbus Avenue (16D), New York 10025, (212) 662-8801. John Hansen, 302 Avenue C, Brooklyn 11218. Henry Pfaff, 77 Eckhart, Buffalo 14207, (716) 877-6073. Jackie Panish, 99-12 65th Road (5-J), Rego Park 11374, (212) 868-1121.

**OHIO:** Southwest Ohio General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee Local 1, Box 26381, Dayton 45426. Prison Organizing Project, Dennis Wolfel, Number 154-554, Box 45699, Lucasville 45699-001.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Tom Hill, Delegate, Box 41928, Philadelphia 19101.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Harbinger Publications IU 450, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia 29201, (803) 254-9398.

**TEXAS:** Gilbert Mers, Delegate, 7031 Kernel, Houston 77087, (713) 921-0877. Andrew Lee, Delegate, 3402 Enfield (Apartment B), Austin 78703, (512) 472-7854.

**VIRGINIA:** IWW Delegate, 140 Racefield Drive, Toano 23168.

**WASHINGTON:** Bellingham General Membership Branch Box 1368, Bellingham 98227. Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle 98144. Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma 98405, (206) 272-8119. Bill Turnmire, Delegate, North 10109 Wesley, Spokane 99218, (509) 466-9503. IWW Group, Box 392, Walla Walla 99362.

**WISCONSIN:** Madison General Membership Branch, c/o 1846 Jenifer, Madison 53704, (608) 251-1937 or 249-4287.

have come to accept that AIDS is a disability, and it is illegal to fire a worker because of a disability.

But problems still arise. Some employers have refused to hire those they believe to be at high risk of developing the disease. Others are requiring pre-employment blood tests to try to screen out those with AIDS antibodies in their bloodstream. Still other employers put workers with AIDS on involuntary disability leave, paying full salary and benefits, but refusing to let them work. Most lawyers say that this is illegal if the employee is capable of working.

Mitchell Karp, a staff lawyer with the AIDS Discrimination Unit of the New York City Commission on Human Rights, said much of the job discrimination springs from fears of contagion. "It's often a panic by co-workers that leads the employer to try to get a worker with AIDS out of the office," he said. "What's really needed is more education about the fact that AIDS cannot be spread through casual workplace contact."



# HORMEL STRIKE CONTINUES

As this issue of the *Industrial Worker* goes to press (May 10th) a (hopefully large and militant) rally in support of the 507 Hormel workers in Ottumwa, Iowa who were fired for honoring striking Local P-9's flying picket line is taking place, showing once again the tremendous support that this perhaps historic strike is eliciting from the ranks of the US labor movement. On April 12th, a similar rally drew about 3,000 supporters of Local P-9 from around the country. The demonstrators were particularly fired up by the news of the action on the day before, in which 400 strikers and supporters succeeded in shutting down the plant for several hours before being dispersed by police in riot gear using tear gas and mace. Picketers fought back, however, sending at least nine cops to the hospital. Seventeen picketers were arrested and charged with felony riot.

The solidarity that Local P-9 and the fired Ottumwa workers are receiving is perhaps partially due to the outright betrayal of this struggle by the upper echelons of the labor movement. April 14th and 15th saw hearings being held by the UFCW International on whether or not Local P-9 should be brought into receivership for refusing to obey the International's March 24th order to end the strike and return to work. (According to the May issue of *Labor Notes* each member of Local P-9 was sent a letter by the International containing a final 40-dollar strike benefit and a form letter, addressed to Hormel's personnel manager, offering to unconditionally return to work and accept whatever work assignment the company offered.) The president of Local P-9, Jim Guyette, called the hearing a "farce" and a "sham", pointing out that the International had refused to provide documents or witnesses requested by the local union.

The 900 remaining strikers, however, are refusing to let this threat by the International kill their strike. They have come to see themselves as front-line fighters in labor's battle against concessions. That this is not mere self-justification is shown by the introduction of a bill into Congress by 27 Republican Senators which would amend the Hobbs Act to include incidents of picket-line violence as acts of extortion: a federal crime. The bill was introduced by Senator Robert Dole of Kansas on behalf of Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa. Alleged union violence in the Hormel strike is cited by supporters of the bill as proof of its need. Supporters of the bill outside Congress include the US Chamber of Commerce and the National Right to Work Committee. Although the bill was withdrawn April 16th for lack of support, its introduction shows that the employing class are becoming concerned about the growing militancy in labor's ranks.

## SPANISH PORT WORKERS ASK SOLIDARITY

Zone delegates of Coordinadora, the dockers' union that represents more than 80% of Spanish dockworkers, met in Madrid to evaluate their last serial strike, April 2nd through 6th.

The strike was total in every Spanish port, and minimum compulsory service (see the May *IW*) was hardly used at all, being imposed mainly for frozen-fish boats in Villagarcia and a small service in La Comera, a Canary Island. Another boat was loaded in Cadiz through compulsory service, but on arrival in Canary Islands ports it was not unloaded, and firms in these islands did not dare require compulsory service.

On April 3rd a meeting was held with Don Eligio Hernandez, the Government Delegate for the Canary Islands, who reported to the dockworkers that the Government-appointed commission, headed by Don Alvaro Espina, had finished its program. If politically approved, its recommendations were to be presented to employers and employees.

Coordinadora replied that it is a mistake to face dock problems the way they do, demanding open discussion and participation of workers in whatever commissions

### STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

The Coordinadora General Assembly unanimously rejected the Government's new dockers scheme April 24-25 as an attack against port workers' unity. Workers are removed from the rotating lists of the OTP and divided among the various private firms, leaving them vulnerable to dismissals.

Struggles have already taken place in the ports of Bilbao, Barcelona, Valencia, Tenerife and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria with dockers leaving the private firms and attempting to return to the rotating system. This has led to work stoppages and lock-outs with workers refusing to work outside the rotating system and OTP refusing to return workers to the rotating lists.



Some 3,000 unionists from throughout North America gathered in Austin, Minnesota to show their solidarity

with striking Hormel meatpackers.

Can this strike still be won? Perhaps, if the pressure on Hormel can be kept up. It is reported that the struck Austin plant, despite its scabs, has not reached 25% of its pre-strike production levels; and other Hormel plants in Atlanta, Beloit, and Fremont are experiencing short weeks and layoffs. Of course the Ottumwa plant, with 500 workers canned out of a workforce of 800, is certainly not producing normally. The boycott is apparently having substantial effect also, to the extent that Hormel, with the collusion of some of UFCW International President Wynn's buddies, has taken out an ad in a vending-machine trade publication offering stickers which could be placed on vending machines saying that the strike was unauthorized and that Hormel's wages were among the best in the industry. This was to counter pressure being brought by union locals to have Hormel products removed from vending machines in union halls and plants. Supporters have also succeeded in getting some stores to take Hormel goods off the shelves. Still, to win the strike it is necessary to shut down Hormel—not only in Austin but all over.

As inspiring as the Hormel workers' fight is, it should not be forgotten that it is still an essentially defensive battle. What is urgently needed is for labor to go on the offensive, to start making demands on employers and not just cling to gains already won. But in order to go

on the offensive, workers must realize that the capitalist system no longer has anything to offer us. They cannot grant us concessions without putting their very existence in jeopardy. What this means for us is that our offensive must have as its goals the seizure of the means of production, the institution of workers' management, and the elimination of capitalism itself. This struggle cannot be avoided any longer if we do not want to be driven back into virtual slavery. No more givebacks; take the offensive!

Mike Hargis

As the *IW* goes to press the UFCW has placed Local P-9 in receivership, and is attempting to seize the local's hall and assets. Rank-and-file members have declared their determination to retain control of the hall and to continue the strike.

**INEQUALITY:** In 1984 the wealthiest fifth of the US population received 43% of the national income, while the poorest fifth received less than 5%. The gap between rich and poor is the widest since the Government began collecting this information in 1947.

**STATE TERRORISM:** Amnesty International documents 14 known cases of Libyan political killings or attempted killings by the famous "hit team". US-trained and -funded murders in Latin America alone have killed tens of thousands.

"most difficult moment we have lived in all of our dockers-movement history", and asks that additional letters be sent to Don Alvaro Espina, Secretario Empleo, Ministerio Trabajo, Paseo Castellana, Madrid, Spain, with a copy to the newspaper *El Pais*, calle Miguel Yuste, 40, Madrid, Spain; a second copy to Delegado Gobierno, Las Palmas, Canary Islands; and a third copy to Coordinadora, Francisco Ramos, Estivadores Portuarios, OTP, Calle la Marina, 26, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands.

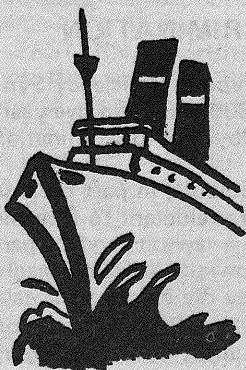
(Don Alvaro Espina is the Government-appointed chairman of the commission in charge of the new dock scheme. *El Pais* is one of the largest-circulation newspapers in Spain. El Delegado de Gobierno for the Canary Islands is the Spanish Government representative.)

The Haymarket International Labor Conference delegates unanimously decided May 4th to send a telegram to the Spanish Government insisting that it withdraw its union-busting dockwork scheme and accept Coordinadora union proposals.

### CANADIAN WEALTH CONCENTRATES

Just as takeover fever has gripped the US, with big companies snapping up littler ones, Canada is rife these days with hostile takeover bids and hastily-arranged corporate mergers. The takeover enthusiasm is fired by weak anti-trust laws; the desire to complete takeovers before the laissez-faire policies of the current government of Brian Mulroney are tightened, as some financial executives expect; and the existence of huge pools of pension-fund money that Canadian workers have no way of preventing being tapped for takeover funds.

As a result, the Canadian economy is becoming even more concentrated. In all but 14 of the largest public corporations, a single shareholder controls at least 25% of the stock: a situation which parallels that of countries like Switzerland and West Germany. But what is especially noticeable about Canada is the extent to which the financial power is wielded by a very few families possessing the wherewithal to grow even more powerful through acquisitions and purchases of major blocks of stock. As of this writing, 49% of the share value of stocks on the Toronto Exchange is held by just nine families: those of Conrad and Montegu Black, Edward and Peter Bronfman, Paul Desmarais, the Reichmanns, the Siemen brothers, Ron Southern, Kenneth Thompson, and Galen Weston.



**SUPPORT  
SPANISH  
DOCK  
WORKERS**